



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

JUL 10 2018

Richard Nikolaus Renz
Tactical Defense Solutions LLC
129 Riverview Avenue
Portsmouth, VA 23704

RE: MURs 7078 and 7084

Dear Mr. Renz:

On June 15, 2016, the Federal Election Commission (the "Commission") notified you of a complaint alleging violations of certain sections of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended. On June 28, 2018, the Commission found that there is no reason to believe you violated 52 U.S.C. § 30119(a)(1). Accordingly, the Commission closed its file in this matter.

Documents related to the case will be placed on the public record within 30 days. *See* Disclosure of Certain Documents in Enforcement and Other Matters, 81 Fed. Reg. 50,702 (Aug. 2, 2016). The Factual and Legal Analysis, which explains the Commission's finding, is enclosed for your information.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (202) 694-1650.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Shonkwiler", followed by a long horizontal line.

Mark Shonkwiler
Assistant General Counsel

Enclosure
Factual and Legal Analysis

1-800-454-6110

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II. FACTUAL AND LEGAL ANALYSIS

Scott Taylor was a Member of the Virginia House of Delegates, and ran for Congress in Virginia's Second District in 2010 and 2016.¹ The Complaint alleges multiple federal contractors contributed to Taylor's congressional committee.²

Federal contractors may not make contributions to political committees, and a Committee may not knowingly solicit donations from federal contractors.³ This prohibition does not apply to individual employees of a federal contractor who are not themselves contractors.⁴ Employees of federal contractors may contribute to federal political committees using personal funds.⁵

The Committee alleges that the contributors identified by the Complaint are employees of federal contractors, not contractors themselves, and may contribute. Nearly all of the named contributors submitted responses affirming that they are not contractors, and that the funds used were personal and not directed by a contractor firm. One contributor did not respond, but the Commission has no information indicating that he is a federal contractor. The Commission therefore finds no reason to believe that the individuals named in the Complaint are federal contractors, and no reason to believe that they violated 52 U.S.C. § 30119(a)(1).

¹ Taylor lost the Republican Primary in 2010, and won election to Congress in 2016.

² Compl. at II (June 14, 2016).

³ 52 U.S.C. § 30119(a)(1)-(2); 11 C.F.R. § 115.2.

⁴ 11 C.F.R. § 115.6.

⁵ *Id.* Additionally, if a sole proprietorship is a federal contractor, the owner of that entity may not donate to federal campaigns using business, personal or other funds. *Id.* § 115.5.